

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 03764 241004Z

15

ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 SCA-01 ISO-00 /002 W
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R 240847Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8061

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 3764

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, TU

SUBJ: ISSUANCE OF GREEK VISAS FOR AMERICAN TRAVELING WITH
DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS

REF: STATE 212013

1. SEPTEMBER 22 GREEK CONGEN, ISTANBUL, INFORMED US THAT IT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO PLACE VISAS IN OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC US PASSPORTS. ACCORDING TO GREEK CONOFF, ALL SUCH VISAS MUST BE ISSUED IN ANKARA IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM GREEK EMBASSY, ANKARA.

2. CONSEQUENCE OF THIS POLICY IS THAT ALL AMERICANS CARRYING DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS WHO WISH TO TRAVEL TO GREECE MUST EITHER GO TO ANKARA IN PERSON OR SEND PASSPORT TO EMBASSY AND AWAIT PASSPORT'S RETURN BY MAIL. IN EITHER CASE APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO INCONVENIENCE AND LONG DELAY.

3. CONSUL GENERAL IS SEEKING EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH GREEK CONSUL GENERAL TO DISCUSS SITUATION. HOWEVER, UNDERSTAND AMEMBASSY ANKARA HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEM BY TELEPHONE WITH AMEMBASSY ATHENS WHICH INFORM THAT GREEK POLICY BEING APPLIED HERE IS WORLDWIDE AND APPLIES TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS IN WHICH GREEK VISAS ARE REQUIRED.

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